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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 11 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you of the aggressive conduct by the United States authorities at JFK Airport in New York towards Ms. Mithal Sabri Jassem, a member of the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Iraqi Women and a member of the Iraqi delegation to the twenty-third special session of the United Nations General Assembly, who suffered severe physical and psychological distress without any justification. On the evening of 6 June 2000, Ms. Jassem arrived at JFK Airport in New York holding a valid passport with a visa dated 5 June 2000 issued by the United States Embassy in Amman. Upon her arrival, Ms. Jassem was taken to an isolated room reserved for suspects and criminals, where the United States authorities interrogated, photographed and fingerprinted her, after which she was allowed to leave the airport.

The United States authorities' treatment of Ms. Jassem reflects blatant contempt for the most elementary principles of civilized behaviour, and constitutes a serious and flagrant violation of their obligations under the Headquarters Agreement. According to that Agreement, the host country must, *inter alia*, facilitate the entry of delegations coming to participate in the work of the United Nations at its Headquarters in New York. The provocative and uncivilized conduct of the United States authorities towards delegations of certain countries arriving to participate in the work of the United Nations in New York, including Iraqi delegations, has reached the point where indulgence is no longer appropriate. The United Nations must therefore intervene to put an end to such conduct. We hope that the Committee on Relations with the Host Country will address this question and take appropriate action to halt such barbaric conduct on the part of the United States authorities.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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